

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MCALLEN DIVISION

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS)
UNION, in its individual)
and corporate)
capacities,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Civil Action No.
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR) 7:16-CV-00103
JOHN RODRIGUEZ, in his)
official capacity; and)
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE)
ROLANDO PABLOS, in his)
official capacity,)
Defendants.)

ORAL DEPOSITION OF
BRIAN KEITH INGRAM
December 4, 2017

ORAL DEPOSITION OF BRIAN KEITH INGRAM, produced
as a witness at the instance of the Defendants and duly
sworn, was taken in the above-styled and numbered cause
on December 4, 2017, from 10:04 a.m. to 12:23 p.m.,
before KATRINA FAITH WRIGHT, Certified Shorthand Reporter
in and for the State of Texas, reported by machine
shorthand, at 300 West 15th Street, 11th Floor, Austin,
Texas 78701, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure and the provisions stated on the record or
attached hereto.

1 Q. (By Mr. Arnold) Does the Secretary of State use
2 the National Change of Address Database?

3 MR. ADAMS: Objection, asked and answered.

4 A. We do not.

5 Q. (By Mr. Arnold) And we talked about that
6 earlier, that's just because it's -- you hadn't quite
7 figured out the cost of it yet and it's maybe a little
8 bit cumbersome to use, right?

9 MR. ADAMS: Objection, asked and answered.

10 A. So I know it's a vendor specific thing and I
11 know there are enough permutations out there it requires
12 some sort of purchasing process in order to get more
13 information that would be more actionable. I don't know
14 if there is any -- since it's unbudgeted, I don't know if
15 there is any reason to proceed with some sort of
16 purchasing process.

17 Q. (By Mr. Arnold) You mentioned earlier you knew
18 who the Starr County elections administrator was, right,
19 Mr. Rodriguez?

20 A. Right, and Mr. Montalvo before him.

21 Q. Do you have any opinions about Mr. Rodriguez's
22 ability to perform his job?

23 MR. ADAMS: Objection, relevance, and
24 objection to form.

25 A. It has been my general impression for some time

1 that Starr County has very little concept of the life of
2 a voter.

3 Q. (By Mr. Arnold) What do you mean by that?

4 A. I mean that they generally don't understand --
5 they don't understand their role, they don't understand
6 our role, they don't understand that voters' statuses
7 change over time and that this information is available
8 to them. They just don't have the framework, I guess, to
9 comprehend what's expected of them.

10 MR. ADAMS: Plaintiff withdraws the
11 objection.

12 Q. (By Mr. Arnold) Have you all provided any
13 additional training to Starr County based on your --

14 A. We have talked to Starr County a lot, yes.

15 Q. Did you talk to Starr County before
16 Mr. Rodriguez became the elections administrator this
17 last summer?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What were your opinions of Mr. Montalvo when he
20 was the elections administrator?

21 A. Very much the same. They are not unique in that
22 regard, don't get me wrong, I'm just saying.

23 Q. How many other counties in your experience
24 suffer from a similar, let's say, lack of training?

25 A. It's not a lack of training, it's a lack of

1 comprehension, and I don't know. There was one, there
2 was Houston County, and bless her heart, she was
3 completely incapable. And we worked with the Texas
4 Association of Counties, we talked to her county judge,
5 we did whatever we could to try to alert them to the fact
6 that their elections office was in the hands of a person
7 that we considered to be in the early stages of dementia
8 and not competent. And finally after this last election
9 she has been retired.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So it happens.

12 Q. Okay. How many other counties have you -- I
13 mean, that seems like an extreme example. How many other
14 counties do you think struggle with, I guess you called
15 it --

16 A. Not many. There are some extreme examples.
17 Harrison County a few years ago had an election
18 administrator that was in desperate need of being
19 terminated and we put fairly relentless pressure on her
20 and her office and the county judge until that in fact
21 happened.

22 So I say that to say that Starr County is
23 within the range of normal. We certainly haven't done
24 anything like that with regard to Starr County. They
25 want to do well. They call us, they ask questions, we